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# REPORTS

OF THE

SELECTMEN, TREASURER,

AND

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

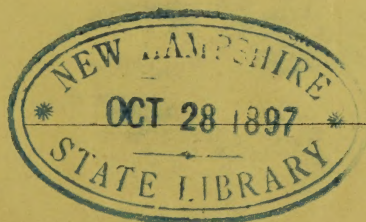
OF THE

Town of Frankestown,

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING MARCH 1,

1870.



[MANCHESTER, N. H.:

FISK'S STEAM JOB PRINTING ESTABLISHMENT.

1870.

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FINANCIAL  
AND  
SCHOOL REPORT  
OF THE  
TOWN OF FRANCESTOWN,  
FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH, 1, 1870.

# REPORT

## OF THE

### COMMISSIONERS OF THE LAND OFFICE

IN RESPONSE TO A RESOLUTION PASSED BY THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

ON THE 14TH MARCH 1861

AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE LAND ACT, 1861

BY THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE LAND OFFICE

LONDON: PRINTED BY THE STATIONER GENERAL

1861

THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE LAND OFFICE HAVE THE HONOUR TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE RECEIPT OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE LAND OFFICE, IN RESPONSE TO A RESOLUTION PASSED BY THE HOUSE OF COMMONS ON THE 14TH MARCH 1861, AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE LAND ACT, 1861.

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# REPORT

## OF THE

### OVERSEERS OF THE POOR.

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The subscribers, Overseers of the Poor, report as follows :

#### DR.

To cost of farm,	\$2,664 38
Amount of stock as appraised last year,	847 00
Hay and fodder,	201 00
Farming tools,	189 25
Provisions and produce,	461 45
Miscellaneous articles,	376 26
There will be due S. B. Richardson, April 1,	
1870,	350 00
Interest on farm,	159 86
	<hr/> \$5,249 20

#### APPRAISAL OF PROPERTY FEBRUARY 19, 1870.

#### CR.

By farm,	\$2,664 38
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#### LIVE STOCK.

By 1 horse, \$100.00; 2 oxen, \$255.00,	\$355 00
7 cows, 450.00; 1 sheep, 8.00,	458 00
4 shoats, 50.00; 30 fowls, 25.00,	75 00
	<hr/> \$888 00

#### HAY AND FODDER.

By 12 tons market hay,	\$192 00
2 tons stock hay, \$18.00; straw and corn fodder, 7.00,	25 00
	<hr/> \$217 00

#### PROVISIONS AND PRODUCE.

By 68 bushels corn, \$90.50; 18 bushels wheat,	
\$34.50,	\$125 00
4½ bushels barley, 6.75; lot beans, 4.00,	10 75
125 bushels potatoes, 75.00; 2 bushels tur- nips, .60,	75 60

By garden-sauce, 4.00; 250 lbs. salt beef, 28.00,	\$32 00
125 lbs. salt pork, 25.00; 75 lbs. ham, 15.00,	40 00
251 lbs. fresh pork, 37.65; 163 lbs. butter,	
57.00,	94 65
42 lbs. lard, 8.40; 19 lbs. dried apples, 3.00,	11 40
3 barrels apples, 9.00; flour and meal,	
10.00,	19 00
	<hr/>
	\$408 40

## FARMING TOOLS.

By 1 cart, \$25.00; 1 wagon, \$50.00; 2 sleighs,	
\$10.00,	85 00
2 ox sleds, 5.00; 2 wheelbarrows, 8.00,	13 00
2 plows and cultivator, 20.00; 3 chains, 5.00,	25 00
Ox yokes, 4.00; whiffletree and chain, 1.25,	5 25
1 harrow, 5.00; 1 stone drag, .50; 4 sled	
runners, 1.50,	7 00
5 hay-forks, 2.50; 2 manure-forks, 3.00,	5 50
3 shovels, 2.00; 5 hoes, 2.00; 2 drag-rakes,	
2.00,	6 00
6 rakes, 1.00; scythes and snaths, 3.75,	4 75
1 bush-scythé, 1.00; 9 axes, 5.00,	6 00
2 iron bars, 3.00; beetle and wedges, 1.00,	4 00
2 wood-saws, 2.50; 1 hammer, .75,	3 25
Grindstone, 2.00; sickle and corn-cutter, .50,	2 50
Carpenters' tools, 7.00; monkey-wrench,	
1.25,	8 25
Rasp and measures, 1.00; shaving-horse	
and flail, 1.50,	2 50
4 ladders, 3.00; 1 harness, 8.00; horse-	
blanket, 2.50,	13 50
1 surcingle, 1.00; 2 cards, .20,	1 20
	<hr/>
	\$192 70

## MISCELLANEOUS ARTICLES.

By sap fixtures, \$50.00; lumber and shingles,	
\$12.00,	\$62 00
8 bags, 2.50; 3 baskets, 1.50,	4 00
60 gallons soap, 12.00; 28 lbs. candles, 6.00,	18 00
3 gallons pickles, 2.50; groceries, 5.50,	8 00
Salt, 1.00; 3 doz. eggs, 75; 14 lbs. rolls, 1.25,	3 00
Matches, .50; old iron, 1.00; gun, 1.00,	2 50
Hog hook and trees, 1.50; shoe-bench, 1.00,	2 50
Household furniture,	240 00
Cash in Agent's hands,	126 05
	<hr/>
	\$456 05
	<hr/>
	\$4,866 53



SCHEDULE OF ARTICLES SOLD FROM THE FARM, WITH THE  
AMOUNT RECEIVED FOR THE SAME DURING THE YEAR END-  
ING FEBRUARY 19, 1870.

1 pair of oxen, \$235.00; 4 cows and calves, \$262.00	\$497 00
6 calves, 90.50; pork, 137.16; beef, 17.10,	244 76
Hide, 5.44; butter, 175.78; cheese, 10.87,	192 09
Potatoes, 10.00; grain, 19.62; apples, 14.75,	44 37
Lard, 2.40; eggs and poultry, 80.20; maple syrup, 13.88,	96 48
Feeting, 7.50; pease, 2.66; extra labor, 9.37,	19 53
Interest, 3.50; use of horse, 9.70,	13 20
	<hr/> \$1,107 43

Which is accounted for as follows :

Paid for 1 pair oxen, \$255.00; 5 cows, \$344.00,	\$599 00
1 calf, 7.50; in exchange of cows, 15.00,	22 50
1 sheep, 5.00; 6 pigs, 30.50,	35 50
fowls, 13.29; grinding grain, 17.18,	30 47
threshing grain, 4.55; blacksmith's bill, 10.87,	15 42
repairing wagon, 2.25; superphos- phate, 21.15,	23 40
store bill, 190.03; saw bill, 4.51,	194 54
joiner bill, 1.53; doctor's bill, 2.00; extra labor, 5.00,	8 53
repairing clocks, 1.00; use of plow, 1.50,	2 50
yarn, 1.33; vinegar, 2.39; wheat, 8.75,	12 47
tapping boots, 1.25; repairing pump, .95,	2 20
grass, 1.50; meat and scraps, 7.57,	9 07
butter tubs, 6.50; tin ware, 4.25,	10 75
ax and helve, 1.80; sundry small bills, 13. 23,	15 03
Cash in Agent's hands,	126 05
	<hr/> \$1,107 43

The number of paupers supported on the farm the past year is five and one third. The expense of their support is \$412.67. The expense of paupers off the farm has been \$214.90; making \$627.57 for support of paupers the past year.

HENRY RICHARDSON,  
JOHN WEST,  
A. H. BIXBY,  
*Overseers of the Poor.*

## ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT.

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The subscribers, accountants for the town of Francestown for the year ending March 1, 1870, report as follows:

### STATEMENT.

Whole amount of taxes assessed on the polls and estates of the inhabitants of said town	\$9,266 55
Appropriated as follows :	
State tax,	\$2,250 00
County tax,	630 81
Town tax,	6,385 74
	<hr/> \$9,266 55

The Treasurer of the town charges himself with the following sums :

Cash received from Treasurer of 1868,	\$1,267 39
Cash received of Selectmen, borrowed for the town,	3,140 00
Cash received of Francis H. Duncklee, Collector, 1868,	1,681 54
Cash received of Francis H. Duncklee, Collector, at sundry times,	5,250 00
Cash received from the State,	495 89
Cash received of Solon B. Richardson, Superintendent of town farm,	300 00
Cash received from the county,	14 56
	<hr/> \$12,149 38

The Treasurer credits himself with the following disbursements, ordered by the Selectmen, to wit:

### FOR SUPPORT OF SCHOOLS.

District No. 1,	\$96 52
“ “ 3,	342 84
“ “ 4,	125 50
“ “ 5,	197 89
“ “ 6,	100 71
“ “ 7,	76 84
“ “ 8,	59 09
“ “ 9,	32 00



District No. 10,	\$35 10	
"    "    12,	29 80	
George Whitfield,	1 39	
For school books,	95	
	<hr/>	\$1,098 63
George F. Pettie as S. S. Committee,		60 00

## EXTRA REPAIRS ON HIGHWAYS.

Paid Nathaniel Whitfield,	\$110 39	
Luther Hardy, for bridge plank,	13 69	
Wm. R. Sawyer, labor on highway,	16 24	
F. H. Eaton, " " "	10 00	
George B. Woodward, labor on highway,	49 14	
Amos George, " "	30 00	
Alanson Burnham, " "	7 00	
Harvey Newton, " "	27 86	
H. B. Silver, labor on bridge,	111 67	
Samuel W. Eaton, labor on bridge,	95 00	
Garvin S. Sleeper, labor on highway,	5 90	
Geo. A. Shattuck, " "	2 85	
Frank B. Dean, " "	38 07	
P. C Kidder, labor repairing bridge,	49 14	
N. F. Langdell, labor on highway and bridge,	58 11	
Amos Whittemore, labor on highway,	18 90	
D. W. Kennedy, labor on highway and bridge,	111 74	
K. W. Emerson, labor on highway,	32 79	
R. P. Collins, labor on highway,	11 00	
J. F. Dean, labor on highway,	18 71	
Wm. H. Farnum, labor on highway and bridges,	128 80	
E. A. Wilson, labor on highway,	68 03	
George M. Bell, bridge plank,	57 56	
William H. Hopkins, labor on highway,	5 00	
H. E. Whitfield, for bridge plank and re- pairing highway,	12 22	
Leonard Spalding, for labor repairing high- way,	37 59	
Moses B. Fisher, labor repairing highway,	8 20	
Thomas Averill, " " "	6 82	
P. M. Foote, " " "	1 80	
Samuel Stevens, " " "	7 51	
David W. Hill, " " "	11 61	
John T. Felch, " " "	17 91	
David Manahan " " "	44 54	
Daniel Tobie, " " "	16 26	
John West, " " "	20 50	
	<hr/>	\$1,262 55

## BREAKING ROADS.

Paid Elias A. Wilson,	21 95
William H. Kennedy,	17 97
William H. Hopkins,	3 00
E. P. Bryant,	3 74
A. Ranger,	2 15
Levi Colby,	6 60
Amos Whittemore,	9 30
R. P. Collins,	14 40
E. G. Kemp,	35 75
Luther Hardy,	4 95
Amos George,	6 45
Nathaniel Whitfield,	2 40
E. K. Batchelder,	24 54
Maynard Dutton,	13 09
William R. Sawyer,	3 00
Thomas E. Fisher,	6 90
S. G. Wood,	14 52
Charles A. Quigley,	1 70
Thomas Ordway,	12 76
J. F. Dean,	5 32
P. B. Andrews,	14 68
Wm. H. Farnum,	13 15
S. W. Eaton,	16 82
H. B. Silver,	6 10
Jacob W. Cooper,	14 30
B. S. Abbott,	21 79
S. P. Newton,	5 60
Geo. D. Epps,	4 75
John Weston,	5 30
John Patch,	7 72
Wm. Patch,	3 15
L. F. Atwood,	7 80
P. C. Kidder,	4 72
Edmund Shattuck,	5 17
Geo. A. Shattuck,	3 45
Samuel Lolley,	4 00
William Cochran,	6 53
George B. Woodward,	6 60
Thomas P. Rand,	9 42
E. T. Blanchard,	7 60
Geo. H. Richardson,	10 05
David Butterfield,	5 02
Garvin S. Sleeper,	29 76
Mason H. Balch,	4 81
F. H. Duncklee,	13 68
John West,	4 41

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 \$446 87

## SUPPORT OF POOR OFF THE FARM.

Paid Overseers of the Poor, support of Mark Pettee,	\$135 15	
Overseers of the Poor, support of Wm. Gilbert and wife,	65 00	
Overseers of the Poor, support of Abby Dockham and Chas. H. Foote at Reform School,	19 13	
Overseers of the Poor, support of Helen Morse,	12 00	
Overseers of the Poor, support of transient paupers,	1 75	
	<hr/>	\$233 03

## MISCELLANEOUS.

Paid Caroline L. Patch, on note,	\$300 00	
Jacob Gould, on note,	543 25	
Daniel Colley, over assessment,	1 00	
Nancy C. Draper, abatement of tax,	10 00	
Town accountants, for Reports, 1868,	38 00	
Paul H. Bixby, cashier, interest on notes,	28 00	
Paul H. Bixby, treasurer, interest on notes,	110 10	
First National Bank, Francestown, on notes,	700 00	
Francestown Savings Bank, on note,	1,000 00	
James Emery, for services on town farm,	325 00	
William R. Sawyer, discount on note,	1 25	
Amos Whittmore, for public watering place, 1868 and 1869,	6 00	
John Johnson, note and interest,	581 63	
Leonard Spalding, discount on notes,	5 00	
Lois Hopkins, note and interest,	271 23	
Wm. Patch, interest on note,	6 84	
Lucy Patch, discount on note,	5 00	
John M. Dunklee, notes and interest,	995 68	
Rebecca Cram, over-assessment,	3 00	
Isaac Low, interest on note,	12 00	
Solon B. Richardson, for town farm,	300 00	
Geo. E. Downes, for record, collector's and surveyor's books,	11 00	
Mary, Nancy and Isabel McLane, interest on note,	24 00	
Mason H. Balch, on note,	145 29	
Clarinda McCurdy, note and interest,	289 61	
Emma L. Gibson, interest on note,	7 00	
R. G. Mather, damage to carriage on highway,	10 00	
Overseers of the Poor, insurance tax,	6 00	
Richard C. Stanley, interest on note,	6 00	
L. W. Preston, note and interest,	211 00	
Dana B. Hadlock, Deering tax,	1 51	
Thomas P. Rand, note and interest,	239 54	



Paid George F. Pettee, interest on Woodbury fund,	\$60 00
J. P. Richardson, interest on note,	12 00
Huldah Richardson, interest on note,	10 00
S. W. Eaton, for stone post,	1 00
Francis Gould, on note,	130 00
Israel Batchelder, on note,	103 76
Roxanna Nesmith, on note,	64 00
F. H. Duncklee, non-resident highway taxes, 1868,	39 34
T. McClintock, interest on note,	105 06
Abigail Trow, note and interest,	274 29
Joseph Trow, interest on note,	6 00
Downes Brothers, articles for repairing meeting-house,	1 95
Wm. R. Sawyer, for digging and filling graves,	27 00
Letitia A. Weston, interest on note,	3 00
Pamelia C. Weston, " "	12 00
J. F. Fitts, for medical attendance,	10 75
Hannah Greenwood, over-assessment,	3 00
Wm. H. Stevens, for service of engine men,	22 50
K. W. Emerson, repairs on meeting-house,	3 00
Lucy F. Brewster, discount on note,	4 00
L. W. Preston, for ringing bell at noon,	50 00
F. H. Duncklee, costs in collecting bank tax,	15 00
Levi White, over-assessment of tax, 1868,	6 80
E. W. Dodge, public watering place,	3 00
F. H. Duncklee, collector, abatement of John Foote's tax, in 1868,	5 61
F. H. Duncklee, collector, abatement of sundry taxes in 1868,	23 40
Francis H. Ducklee, collector, abatement of John Foot's and David Brown's taxes, 1869,	9 65
John West, for public watering place,	3 00
B. Wadleigh, for legal advice,	5 00
Sarah J. Patch, interest on note,	16 91
Thomas P. Rand, for public watering place,	3 00
	<hr/>
	\$7,227 95

## TOWN OFFICERS.

Paid Henry Richardson, selectman and overseer of the poor,	95 00
John West, selectman and overseer of the poor,	80 00
A. H. Bixby, selectman and overseer of the poor,	85 00
Amasa Downes, treasurer,	20 00
Daniel F. Patch, town clerk,	20 00
F. H. Duncklee, collector,	62 48
W. H. Farnum and S. D. Downes, accountants,	4 00
	<hr/>
	\$366 48

Whole amount of receipts,	\$12,149 38	
disbursements,	10,695 51	
	<hr/>	\$1,453 87

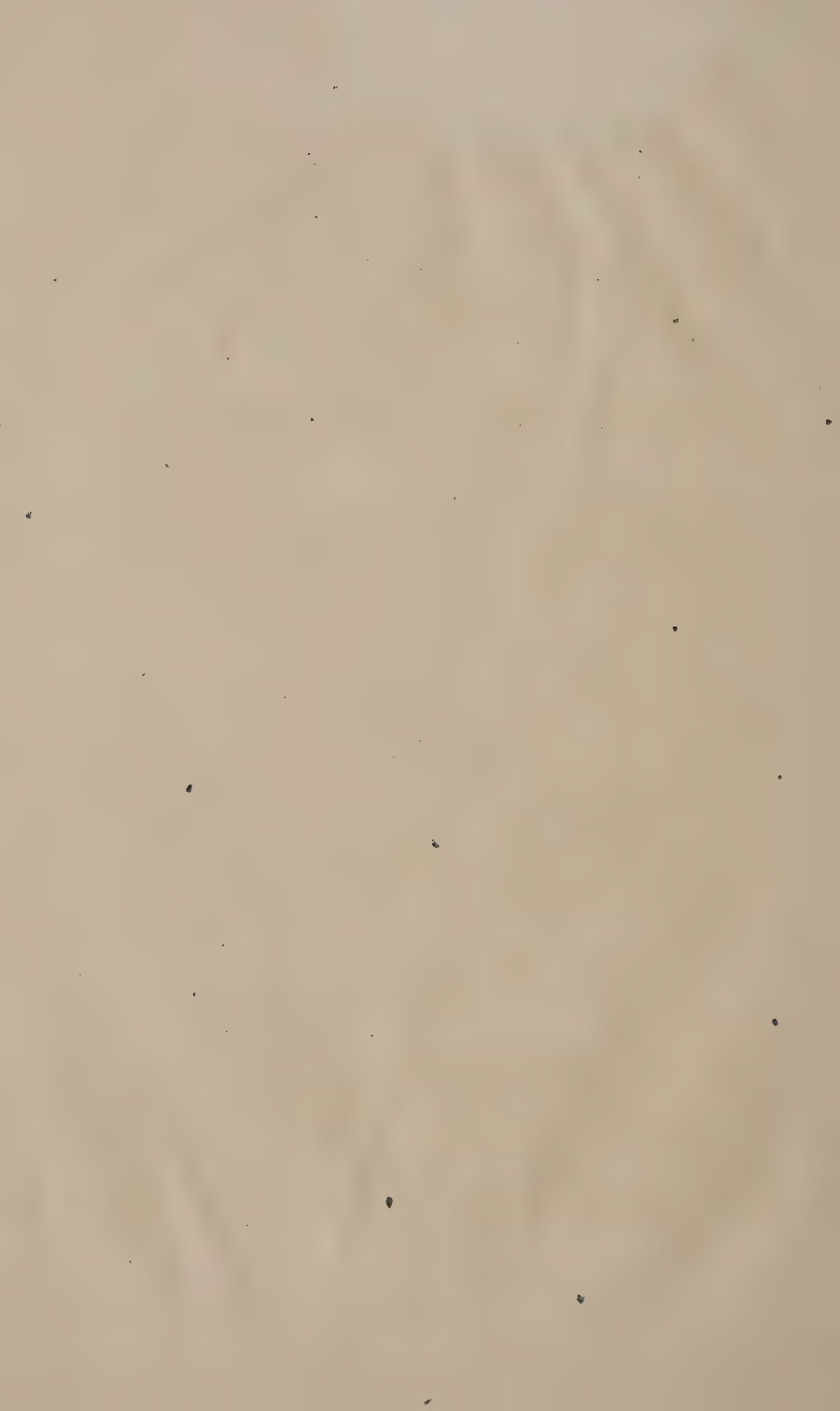
## STATEMENT.

Amount of notes against the town with interest to March 1, 1870,		\$20,220 48
Balance in the treasury,	\$1,453 87	
in collector's hands,	1,135 74	
due from treasurer of 1868,	300 22	
	<hr/>	\$2,889 83
Leaving the town in debt,		\$17,330 65

The foregoing accounts are correctly cast and duly vouched.

W. H. FARNUM,  
SAMUEL D. DOWNES,  
*Accountants.*

There is yet due the town from United States for bounties, \$1,840.00; and the town have bridge plank on hand valued at \$50.00.





# REPORT

## OF THE

### SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

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Again the fleeting year has rolled round, and we, in accordance with law and usage, present to our fellow citizens a brief statement of the condition and progress of our schools. And in entering upon this duty, where so many eagle eyes are watching for praise, either for themselves or friends, and where all we have to say is open to criticism, we venture to advance the opinion that the great object for which a Superintending Committee is chosen is entirely lost sight of by many teachers as well as parents.

The chief aim of a committee should be to assist and advise the teachers in their duties, not, as a matter of course, always agree with them; admonish pupils, even when our admonition is not sought. In short, to advance the usefulness of our common schools. It would seem that some would think our main object should be to please by report, or otherwise, the teacher; extolling in high terms her graces and virtues, and concealing all inferior qualities. It would be extremely pleasant to report all *good*, yes, *very good*, but our services would lose one half their value should we omit to criticise. "Honor to whom honor is due." Under this motto we report.

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#### DISTRICT NO. 1.

Money, \$96.52. Elias A. Wilson, Prudential Committee.

SUMMER.—Length of school, 9 weeks. Number of scholars, 15; average, 14. Wages, \$10 per month, exclusive of board. Teacher, Addie S. Burt, of Hillsborough Bridge. The school was orderly, and the progress good. Classes in spelling and arithmetic excelled. The interest of the examination was very much lessened by the scholars answering in too low a tone of voice. Answers were generally correct, but hard to be understood, even with the strictest attention. Perhaps if the school had been oftener visited the children would have had more confidence.

WINTER.—Length of school, 10 weeks. Number of scholars, 15; average, 13½. Wages, \$28 per month. S. Addie Bryant, teacher. This school is composed of children of all grades; some who are quick and apt to learn, and others to whom the acquiring of knowledge is an up-hill business. But notwithstanding the “diversity of gifts,” by the aid of their experienced and faithful teacher all seemed to have received helps in the right time and place, and a good share of improvement was made. The order of the school when visited was worthy of note.

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### DISTRICT NO. 3.

Money, \$342.84. E. W. Colburn, Prudential Committee.

The summer term of nine weeks, and the fall term of seven weeks, were taught by S. Addie Bryant. Wages, \$28 per month. Number of scholars first term, 49; average, 43 1-9. Second term, 49; average, 41½. These schools, embracing scholars from the A B C's to written arithmetic, were much too large to show the greatest amount of improvement. No teacher is able to do them justice. The labor of the teacher is so scattered that the amount of time bestowed upon each scholar is but a mere fragment. Not a little strength, patience and perseverance was necessary to keep them in a *livable* condition. The teacher was faithful, and not afraid of *work*, of which she had no small share to do. Classes in reading and geography excelled. The schools were all we could expect, and still, more improvement would have been shown had the school been divided and the terms shorter.

WINTER.—The school was divided as in previous winters, by placing thirty-one of the more advanced scholars in the academy, under charge of T. O. Knowlton, A. M. The average attendance of these thirty-one was twenty-nine, which is much better than has been witnessed in the academy for the last four years. We were present at the closing up of the term, forenoon, afternoon, and in the evening to witness the “prize speaking,” and would pronounce it all *very good*.

The smaller craft were cared for in a kindly manner by Carrie M. Cochran. The school was large in point of numbers, but small in size of pupils. Some attended who were rather small for winter use. The school was orderly, the demands of the teacher being cheerfully complied with. Classes in reading, especially, made fine progress. We were obliged, from the nature of the circumstances, to hurry the examination too much to give scholars a fair chance to exhibit their knowledge, but felt assured that the time and money expended was a wise investment. Whole number of scholars, 39; average, 37½. Length of school, 12 weeks. Wages, \$32 per month.

## DISTRICT NO. 4.

Money, \$125.50. J. H. Starrett, Prudential Committee.

SUMMER.—Length of school, 10½ weeks. Number of scholars, 20; average, 18¾. Wages, \$16 per month, exclusive of board. Carrie M. Cochran, a teacher of much experience, here did some of her best work. The number and size of the scholars made the school pleasant. Classes in reading and spelling appeared to excellent advantage.

WINTER.—Length of school, 10 weeks. Number of scholars, 25; average, 22¼. Wages, \$28 per month. Emma A. George, teacher. The school, when first visited, was in fine trim, and the closing day revealed the fact that no scholar was too large to be exempt from obedience and a thorough preparation of his lessons. The teacher labored for thoroughness, and accomplished her aim. Perhaps the attachment between teacher and scholars was not so great as in some instances, but the improvement was good. Some well selected pieces, nicely recited, added much to the interest of the examination. Arithmetic classes a little in advance of the reading. Some two or three of the pupils *graduated* some weeks prior to the close of the term. If we judge aright, the graduates bit themselves, and alone received the injury.

## DISTRICT NO. 5.

Money, \$197.89. J. S. Manahan, Prudential Committee.

SUMMER.—Length of school, 10 weeks. Number of scholars, 14; average, 12¼. Wages, \$18 per month. Emma J. Boynton, teacher. Attendance good. Classes in reading and geography made good improvement. The order and interest, so desirable, were a little deficient.

AUTUMN.—Length of school, 7 weeks. Number of scholars, 19; average, 17+. Wages, \$20 per month. This school was taught and *governed* by Minervia Patten, of Henniker. Miss Patten proved to be just what was needed, an excellent, firm disciplinarian, one whom all loved and respected. Although the term was short, the manners and habits of the scholars were entirely renovated. No teacher in town left her mark more visible upon her pupils than Miss P. The examination gave entire satisfaction to all in attendance.

WINTER.—Length of school, 12 weeks. Number of scholars, 22; average, 17. Wages, \$38 per month. Taught by Rodney H. Wilder, of Peterborough, an experienced teacher. It will be readily seen that the attendance is poorer than in any other school in town. Some were sick, some attended only enough to be accounted scholars, etc. We usually look for the greatest amount of improvement where the attendance is most regular. Mr. Wilder was a *worker*, and had but few drones in school. He deemed his best efforts none too good for his pupils. Scholars generally did well. Classes in spelling and geography did nobly.



## DISTRICT NO. 6.

Money, \$100.71. Stephen Holt, Prudential Committee.

SUMMER.—Length of school, 12 weeks; number of scholars, 8; average, 7½. Wages, \$11 per month, exclusive of board. Emma A. George here taught for the third time, each term being an improvement upon the preceding. This school is in fine condition. Some sharp mathematicians of their age; good in spelling. The progress made equal to any in town, in summer.

AUTUMN.—Length of school, 9½ weeks. Number of scholars, 10; average, 8½. Wages, \$24 per month. This school was commenced by Emma A. George, teacher of the summer term, and prospered finely for some three weeks, when Miss G., in view of more permanent and lucrative employment, left, but was soon succeeded by one, Carrie M. Cochran, who knew by previous acquaintance the exact wants of the school, so that, with the exception of a short vacation, "the exchange was no robbery." Here are some excellent readers and spellers. This school ranks high among the schools in town. The examination attested to the ability and faithfulness of the teachers.

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## DISTRICT NO. 7.

Money, \$76.84. Parker Bartlett, Prudential Committee.

Length of school, 10 weeks. Number of scholars, 8; average, 5. Wages \$20 per month, exclusive of board. Only one term and that in winter, taught by Geo. K. Wood, who is a thorough scholar, good at explanation, and only needed the co-operation of parents and pupils to make the school a success. Those who attended school through the term showed an unusual degree of thoroughness and improvement. It is a fact to be lamented that, while the school was so small and the advantages so good, some who need remodeling and educating should be permitted to stay from school, rather than be *backed* to obey the reasonable laws of the teacher. But so it is. Too much of "the dog in the manger" spirit.

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## DISTRICT NO. 8.

Money, \$59.09. Maynard Dutton, Prudential Committee.

AUTUMN.—Length of school, 8 weeks. Number of scholars, 4; average, 3½. Wages \$20 per month. Ida F. Lord, teacher. The school-house being a minus quantity, the scholars were accommodated in the house of N. D. Hopkins. Much tact and ingenuity was displayed on the part of the teacher, and much improvement on the part of the scholars. We could expect no teacher to do better work with the same amount of material.

WINTER.—Length of school, 6 weeks. Number of scholars, 3; average, 2½. Wages, \$20 per month. Mattie A. Atwood commenced her labors as teacher of the trio, in the second story of D. N. Hopkins's house. As a matter of course, it was a *high* school. The scholars were well drilled in the first rudiments of education; the a b c part not being forgotten. The school made marked improvement in reading and spelling. We think the short term of six weeks was well improved.

#### DISTRICT NO. 9.

Money, \$29.13. Levi P. Bailey, Prudential Committee.

Only a fall term of this institution. Length of school, 8 weeks. Number of scholars, 8; average, 6¾. Wages, \$16 per month. Taught by Ida E. Patch. This school, collected from the "four winds," made a fair share of improvement. The accommodations are not quite so convenient and comfortable as they should be, even for a *fall* term.

#### DISTRICT NO. 10.—UNION.

Money, \$35.10. Henry F. Fisher, Prudential Committee.

SUMMER.—Length of school, 8 weeks. Number of scholars, 8; 5 belonging to Francestown, and 3 to Lyndeborough. Average, 71-5. Wages, \$20 per month. Eliza A. Butterfield here taught an excellent little school. Parents, teacher and scholars were interested. The many little truths and facts in every day life, gathered during the term, made the school appear to good advantage.

WINTER.—Length of school, 11 weeks. Number of scholars, 11, 7 belonging to Francestown. Average of the seven, 6. Wages, \$26 per month. Taught by Eliza A. Lynch, of New Boston. This school, although not composed of material for a great display, was, through the efforts of an excellent teacher, aided by parents and pupils, a perfect success. Many were in attendance at the close of the term, and all were convinced that their children "had *well* done what they had done," and their teacher was one who need not be ashamed of her work.

#### DISTRICT NO. 12.—UNION.

Money, \$29.80. A. J. Dodge, Prudential Committee.

AUTUMN.—Length of school, 10½ weeks. Number of scholars, 6. Only two from Francestown, both of whom were present every day. Mrs. Langdell, teacher of the last winter term, here taught a pretty *high* school. The English and higher branches were

taught just as they should be, thoroughly. The improvement was great. Would that we had more thorough, live, practical teachers like Mrs. Langdell.

Twenty terms, embracing 192 weeks of school, have been taught in town the past year. Taught by 15 different teachers, and attended by 220 different scholars; 135 boys and 75 girls. The best attendance was in the winter term of No. 3 primary, being 96 per cent.

From the interest of the "Woodbury Fund" have been purchased eighty volumes of books, of various sizes, most of which are newly published, of pleasing external appearance, and contents worthy of inspection. These books have been distributed in the various districts, as our best judgment dictated.

There has been a decided improvement over previous years in the matter of attendance, and still it is not what it should be. Parents do not consider what important items are punctuality and regularity of attendance to the improvement of their children and the success of the school. *Some* absences are the result of sickness; but the chief cause is, parents yield too easily to the solicitations of their children, and allow them to vacate their place in the school-room to witness some performance, visit or receive friends, and other things of no importance compared with attending school. If it is important that children attend school at all, it is doubly important that they are punctual and regular. "Whatever is worth doing at all is worth doing well."

At the commencement of each school, the teacher is furnished with a Register, in which is to be kept the attendance, tardiness, deportment, habits of study, etc., of each scholar. This should be kept in the school-room, and previous to the closing day, as fully as can practicably be done, be properly filled out—scholars marked according to their merits, notwithstanding it is no pleasant task for teacher. Sometimes we see nothing of the register during the term. Sometimes it is very imperfectly filled out, causing much ciphering for the committee. Sometimes all are marked + + + or 000, as if it was of no importance, it being the easiest way to dispose of the thing, thinking it would stir up unpleasant feelings if some parent's pet child were marked —. What we wish to arrive at is *truth*. If teachers would keep their accounts properly, (and they are obliged to, by law) and have them examined by parents when visiting the school, many defects in deportment and attendance might be remedied. Teachers should act independently, for "truth will bear its weight."

We are sorry to report that in our opinion, in one respect, the children of our schools, and the rising generation generally fall far short of those of olden time, and this is deportment, or rather behavior. The respect for teacher, love for one another, the filial feeling towards parents begetting confidence, the courtesy to passers by, and those we meet in the daily walks of life, the good old fashioned "no, sir," and "yes, ma'am,"—in fact all these old puritanic customs seem to be fast on the road to oblivion, and in their stead has arisen a kind of *something* which poorly supplies the place of



manners; for in this progressive age, young gentlemen think it by no means up with the times to wait for manners. Now, manners are quite as important as education; in fact, the cultivation of manners is education, and it has been truly said that "education without manners is like a jewel of gold in a swine's snout." No one, old or young, ever lost anything by speaking kind words, by treating with respect and civility all with whom they meet, be they rich or poor, learned or unlearned. Politeness costs nothing, and is of much value to the recipient.

The word *man* has, in the opinion of too many, a far different signification than in the days of our fathers. A nice suit, a big word, an *extra drop*, a cigar, a *little* learning, with an extra brush of the hair and a total indifference to the rights and opinions of others, comes pretty nearly up to the ideal of a *man*. Alas for the community and public schools where men are made of such stuff!

If it is necessary to the growth and well-doing of animals that they be salted and looked after, is it less important that the children upon whom, at no distant day, are to rest the responsibilities of active life, whose influence is to be felt in coming time,—beings who are endowed with thinking powers,—beings possessing an immortal part,—should be most carefully watched and salted by some other than their teacher? Who shall do it, if not the parents? We are thankful that parents visit the schools so generally at their close. But that you may get a better idea of affairs, visit more than once. If parents wish their children to be punctual, they should set them an example by coming to examinations in season to hear all the exercises.

That the blessings of common school instruction are not duly appreciated, all admit. That to the permanent good of our town and state they tend, none denies. That they were established alike for the poor, as well as the rich, so that he that hath no money may come and drink at the fountain of knowledge, need not be proved. That the general diffusion of knowledge, emanating from our public schools, has been the means, to a great extent, through which our country has been so prosperous, tending to diminish idleness and crime, and raising mankind to their proper sphere; and that the closing of our school-houses, humble as they may be, would be one of the darkest hours in our country's history,—is self evident. Now it is a fact that everything that has life needs nourishment to keep it in a healthy condition. It is especially true with our schools. Now who is to furnish nourishment to keep these intellectual fires burning? Not the teacher alone, nor the parent; but it is the duty and privilege of all, have they children or none, to do what they can to render strong and vigorous these institutions, remembering that in them is our hope.

No good citizen can fail to take an interest in the cause of education; none but love to see the youth treading the upward path; and that they may so tread, much pains and care are necessary. We want the hearts of the children more enlisted in the good cause; more punctual, more obedient and more interested. We want parents, especially, more watchful to the unfolding of the tender buds God has loaned them for training; more aware of the re-

sponsibility resting upon them for the education of their children. If parents care not for their children, who will ?

Again we put forth the old petition for teachers of the right stamp,—*live* teachers, with consciences, independent, and full of love for their work ; teachers who work not for pay alone, but for the love of it ; teachers trained for the work,—not those of limited education, who *keep* school as a kind of knitting-work, when they can find nothing else to do ; teachers who have some talent to commence with, some tact at imparting instruction, some ingenuity in striking out the work and busying their pupils ; and last, but not least, teachers who have independence enough to do their whole duty, without fear of censure, or incurring the displeasure of parent or scholar. Many a school is nearly ruined because the teacher, through fear of offending some one, passes over too lightly the violation of rules, sees law and order trifled with with impunity, and soon, in trying to please everybody,—or rather to displease nobody,—finds herself powerless to maintain order, the school-room a *bedlam*, and her pearls, if she has any, cast before swine.

Then “come over and help us.” The work is great ; the cause is just. Every one can do something. Money is wanted ; labor we must have ; example and kind words are always in demand. Let us not be weary in well-doing till *all* can read and spell, and do it *well*,—till no boy or girl in our town shall grow to years of maturity and disgrace himself or the community by making a X (saw-horse) for his name.

All of which is respectfully submitted by

GEORGE F. PETTEE,

*Superintending School Committee.*

FRANCETOWN, Feb. 23, 1870.





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